

Influenza (Nasal Flu) Immunisation Secondary School Update

8th September 2022

As social contact returns to pre-pandemic norms there is likely to be a resurgence in influenza activity in winter 2022 to 2023 to levels similar to or higher than before the pandemic. The potential for co-circulation of influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses could add substantially to pressures in the NHS in 2022 to 2023, by addition, or by prolongation of the overall period for which respiratory viruses circulate in sequence.

NHS England continues to deliver the School Immunisation Programme to all Primary aged children this coming Flu season 2022/2023. Advice for the influenza vaccination programme however is still under review, but for winter 2022 to 2023, it is probable that Secondary schools will be included in the eligible cohorts.

This inclusion has not yet been confirmed. Once we confirm the supply timetable we will agree with policy colleagues in the Department of Health and Social Care an approach to the inclusion of the secondary school cohort (likely to be December / January).

Currently, NHS England is not able to confirm the Flu offer to Secondary schools however the aim is to continue reviewing this, in the hope that we can offer the vaccination to secondary school aged children from December 2022 – January 2023. Year groups for secondary school are also being considered and no decisions will be made until a later date.

For now, Vaccination UK would like to reach out to your school and offer 2 dates on the calendar to deliver Flu sessions if this decision is approved later in the season. This allows both Vaccination UK, and the school, to be semi prepared for a later decision made by NHS England. If this decision does not transpire, Vaccination UK will be in contact to cancel the sessions 'pencilled' in.

We appreciate that Schools are extremely busy in December which is why we have made the decision to work with the schools openly and include them in our planning. This is to make sure both parties are prepared for changes made to the Flu programme later in the season.

The vaccination team will be in contact with the school and will be sending 2 dates for the school to 'pencil' in their calendar. As soon as our team receives any further updates, we will of course notify the school immediately to keep them informed of any changes to the Secondary school Flu programme.

Will our Secondary School Pupils be receiving the Flu Vaccine this year?

NHS England are still deciding this and the hope is that we can offer this to additional Secondary school years. The decision will be made at a later date

What Year groups will they be?

This is being considered and nothing is confirmed yet

When can we expect this to take place in our school?

If the decision is made to vaccinate any Secondary school year groups, this will most likely happen after the 5th December through to January 2023

What do we need to do right now?

Right now, VUK is asking for schools to pencil in a date in the calendar for the team to come in and deliver a Flu session. This is so both parties can be as prepared as possible for what decision will be made.

Kind Regards

School Immunisation Team